

which is generally the case with the ordinary surface water. In the discussion which followed the consensus of opinion was that the theory had nothing to recommend it but its originality.

The last paper was read by Mr. Dudley Le Souëf, who gave an account of a recent "Trip to Queensland." The paper, which took some forty minutes to read, literally bristled with facts of more or less interest to naturalists, and could only have been written by one who possesses the instinct and power of observation of a true naturalist. The greatest prize taken on the trip was the nest and egg of the Victoria Rifle Bird, a full description of which will be found on a later page, as well as the circumstances under which it was obtained.

#### EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS.

The following is a list of the exhibits with which the meeting terminated:—By Mr. G. Coghill.—*Vallisneria spiralis*. By Mr. A. Coles.—A Bearded Swift and a parrot (supposed to be the smallest parrot in the world, measuring only  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches long), both from New Britain; also a Hoopoe, a Jay, and a Cock of the Rock. By Mr. J. E. Dixon.—Large specimens of *Drosera binata*, from Cheltenham; also Coleoptera collected at Dandenong Creek, Oakleigh, &c., By Mr. C. French, sen.—Lepidoptera (Rhopalocera and Heterocera) from British Honduras. By Mr. C. French, jun.—Three nests containing eggs of the White-throated Thickhead (*Pachycephala gutturalis*), showing the variation in the colour of the eggs collected at Bacchus Marsh, Oakleigh, and Dandenong Ranges; also rare orchid in flower (*Orthocerus strictum*), collected in December at Cheltenham. By Mr. J. Gabriel.—Ringed Water Snake from Fiji. By Mr. G. A. Keartland.—Pair of Blue-tongued Lizards (*Cyclodus gigas*), taken at South Brighton. By Mr. J. A. Kershaw.—Eggs of *Phaëton rubricauda* (Bodd.), Red-tailed Tropic Bird, from Lord Howe Island; *Recurvirostra rubricollis* (Temm.), Red-necked Avocet, from Yandembah, New South Wales; *Pelecanus conspicillatus* (Temm.), Australian Pelican, from Gippsland Lakes; *Menura alberti* (Gould), Prince Albert's Lyre Bird, from New South Wales; *Ardetta minuta* (Linn.), Minute Bittern, from Murray River, Victoria; also skin of the latter bird. By Baron von Mueller.—*Swainsona cyclocarpa*, Macdonnell Ranges, Rev. W. F. Schwarz (new to science); *S. forresti*, West Australia, Hon. J. Forrest (new to science); *S. monticola*, Wangaratta, Miss Henley (new for Victoria); *Bauhinia holtzei*, Port Darwin, N. Holtze (new to science); *Aeschynomene aspera*, var. *oligarthra*, Port Darwin, N. Holtze (new for Australia); *Caleyia minor*, Grampians, C. Frost (new for Victoria); also "Monography of Australian Characeæ," by Dr. Nordestedt, of Sund, Sweden. By Mr. J. Searle.—Orchid

(*Caleya minor*), new for Victoria. By Mr. D. Le Souëf.—Nest and egg of Rifle Bird (*Ptilorhis Victorice*), birds' eggs, shells, and many specimens, in illustration of paper. By Mr. T. Steel.—Eight species of freshwater Ostracoda, collected at Willesmere. By Mr. G. Sweet.—Pebbles, probably glaciated, from Myrniong; also glaciated pebble from near Lake Wakatipu, New Zealand.

### THE WILD FLOWER EXHIBITS.

THE committee of the Club had determined this year not to set apart a special evening for an exhibition of wild flowers, as has been the custom for some years past, but to ask members to contribute exhibits of that class at the monthly meetings in October and November, so that the exhibits might embrace both the early and late spring flowers. The result of this change was entirely satisfactory, and a large display of our native flora, both from the vicinity of Melbourne and the more distant parts of the colony, was made, owing to the energies of the patron of the Club, Baron F. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., Government Botanist, and other members.

The exhibits at the October meeting were the more numerous, and, in fact, exceeded the expectations of the committee, completely filling the smaller room at the Royal Society's Hall, and a portion of the large room. At this meeting Baron F. von Mueller exhibited a large number of flowers, principally from the Beechworth district, containing many handsome species. These were staged in large bunches in ornamental jars, and were æsthetically very effective, though it prevented the naming of individual flowers, as has usually been the plan. The centre table was occupied by Mr. G. Coghill with the results of a special trip to Hall's Gap, in the Grampians, distant some 170 miles from town, where, thanks to the kindness of the Messrs. D'Alton, he succeeded in getting together a splendid collection of wild flowers, the greater number of which were previously unknown to the Club's exhibitions. Among these may be mentioned the lovely *Boronias*, *B. pinnata* and *B. pilosa*; the rare *Eriostemon*, *E. hillebrandi*; several *Styphelias*, including the large red *S. sonderi* and the whitish-fringed *S. adscendens*; *Pultenea scabra*, with its dentated leaves; *Prostanthera rotundifolia*, *Bauera sessiliflora*, *Lhotzkya genetylloides*, *Calycotrix sullivani*, all in large quantities; also, *Eucalyptus alpina*, the pretty *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Thryptomene mitchelliana*; the rather uncommon plants, *Phyllanthus thymoides* and *Pseudanthus ovalifolius*; the curious *Conospermum mitchelli*, with its small white and black flowers. Among the *Grevilleas* was *G. cœquifolia*, and amongst the *Rhamnaceæ* the rare *Cryptandra*